

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8565

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, WZ

SUBJ: SWAZILAND OBR

REF: A. STATE 210676 B. STATE 214504 C. STATE 219702

FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTELS:

1. SWAZILAND HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS CONVERSION TO METRIC SYSTEM. LEGISLATION IS NOW BEING DRAFTED THAT WILL GENERALLY FOLLOW SOUTH AFRICAN RULES. AT PRESENT, GOODS MAY CARRY BOTH METRIC AND IMPERIAL MEASURES BUT METRIC MUST BE MORE PROMINENT.

RE SIZES OF PACKAGED GOODS, LEGISLATION IS NOW BEING DRAFTED THAT WILL GENERALLY FOLLOW SOUTH AFRICAN RULES BUT WILL BE LESS RESTRICTIVE.

2. SALES AND EXCISE TAXES ARE THE SAME AS THOSE IMPOSED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

3. THE CHARGE FOR AN IMPORT PERMIT IS A 25 CENT REVENUE STAMP.

4. THE ONLY BONDED WAREHOUSE IN SWAZILAND IS FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. REGULATIONS AND CHARGES ARE THE SAME AS SOUTH AFRICA.

5. THERE IS A NATION-WIDE SWAZILAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, P.O. BOX 72, MBABANE, WITH ABOUT 150 MEMBERS.

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6. A NUMBER OF STORES HAVE RETAIL OUTLETS IN MORE THAN ONE CITY, FOR EXAMPLE, JET STORES, FRAZER STORES, CHRAMBARIES (OFFICE EQUIPMENT), TRUWORTH'S AND OK. LARGE COMPANIES DO NOT NORMALLY OPERATE THEIR OWN STORES.

8. ACCORDING TO SWAZILAND BROADCASTING SERVICE RATE CARD, QUARTER MINUTE ADVERTISING RATE VARIES BETWEEN E2 AND E3 (ABOUT \$2.30 TO \$3.50). THIS RATE IS LIKELY TO INCREASE WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

9. COMMERCIAL RATES FOR THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND (WEEKLY NEWSPAPER) ARE 45 CENTS PER SINGLE COLUMN CENTIMETER; FOR SWAZILAND DIRECTORY E3.50 PER HEAVY TYPE ENTRY, E1.00 FOR ORDINARY ENTRY.

10. INTERPROMOCO IS THE ONLY ADVERTISING AGENCY.
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